

Appl No. 10/071,786
Response dated July 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2005

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2005. Claims 1-20 are in the case. The Examiner indicates that all 20 claims are rejected. This is a final rejection.

The Examiner indicates that the claims are rejected in view of the Francesco patent 2,597,857. The Examiner indicates that claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Francesco.

The Examiner indicates that claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), that rejection appearing at page 6 of the Office Action.

At page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Francesco, U.S. 2,597,857. Comments regarding the rejection of claims 11 and 20 are contained at pages 8 and 9 of the Office Action.

Each of the claims has been amended to point out more clearly that the apparatus has opposing end portions, one end portion having the locking members which are mounted on a plate attached to the shaft, the opposing end portion having the locking nut. The shaft is continuous between its ends, thus enabling load transfer between the nut and the plate that carries the locking members.

This construction as now claimed is not seen in Francesco. Francesco has no such continuous shaft nor a plate attached to the shaft that carries the locking members. In Francesco, the only possible structure that could be argued to be the shaft is a discontinuous structure 60. No load transfer can occur between 60 and the nut 20.

Based upon the above comments, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

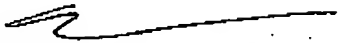
Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

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50-0694;


Respectfully submitted,



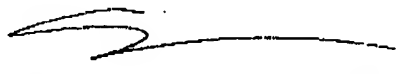
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